



CPRA BOARD MEETING: UPDATE ON THE LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE

July 21, 2021

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LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

working together for sustainability and resilience



AGENDA

1. Louisiana Watershed Initiative overview
2. Project and program status
3. Upcoming events
4. Questions





Council on Watershed Management

“It’s harder. It requires more work.
It’s politically risky, but it is the
right thing to do.”

- GOV. JOHN BEL EDWARDS



LOUISIANA
Office of
**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**



Guiding principles

SCIENTIFIC TOOLS AND APPROACHES

TRANSPARENT AND OBJECTIVE
DECISION MAKING

MAXIMIZING NATURAL FUNCTIONS
OF FLOODPLAINS

REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT



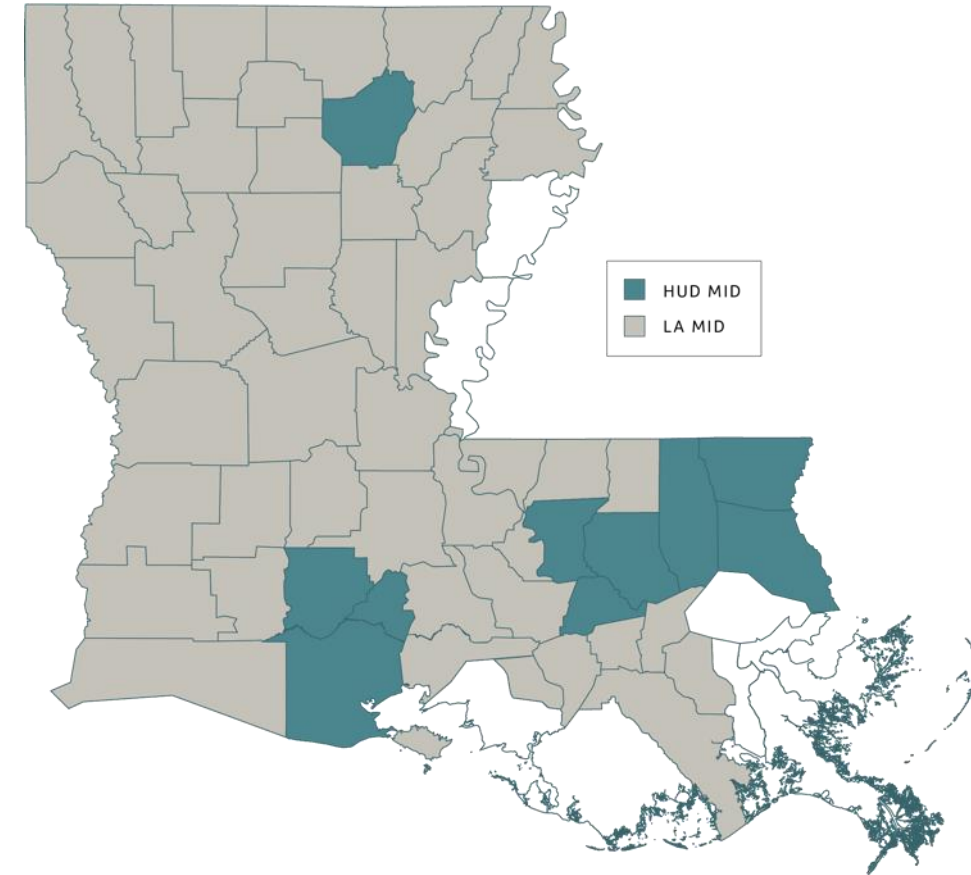
RED RIVER, GRAND Ecore



CDBG-MIT location requirements

MOST IMPACTED AND DISTRESSED AREAS

- HUD identified 10 MIDs: Acadia, Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Livingston, Ouachita, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Vermilion and Washington parishes.
- Louisiana identified an additional 46 MID parishes in its Action Plan, which HUD approved.
- At least \$607 million (50% of CDBG-MIT funds) must be spent in or benefit HUD MID areas.
- The remaining funds must be spent in or benefit LA MID areas.

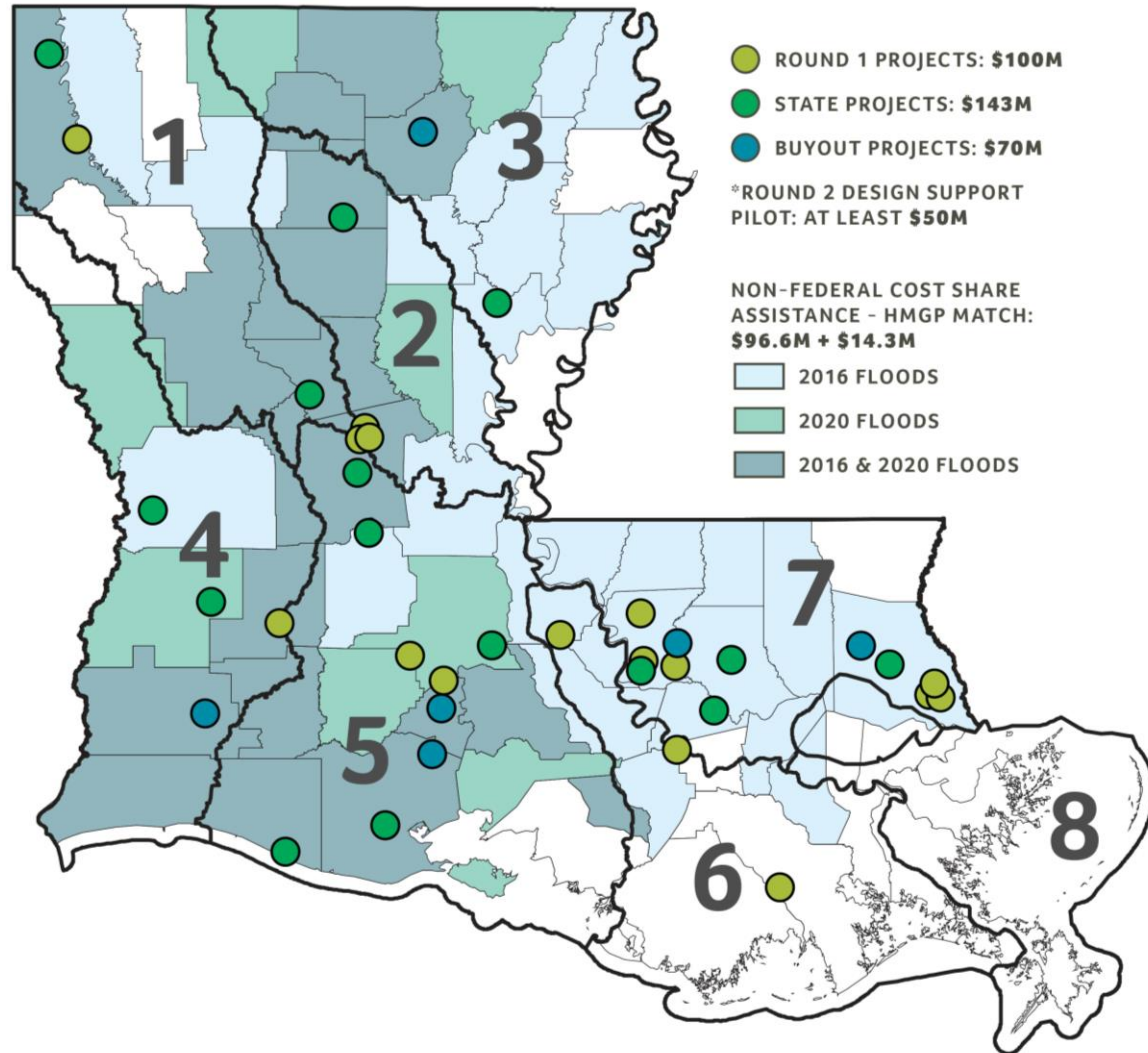




Projects and program status



Projects summary



More than \$450 million in projects will be announced by year's end since the state received its federal grant in September 2020.

- Covering a wide geographic area
- Serving both major population centers and rural or small communities
- Serving communities recently impacted by floods and storms
- Addressing both coastal and inland flooding

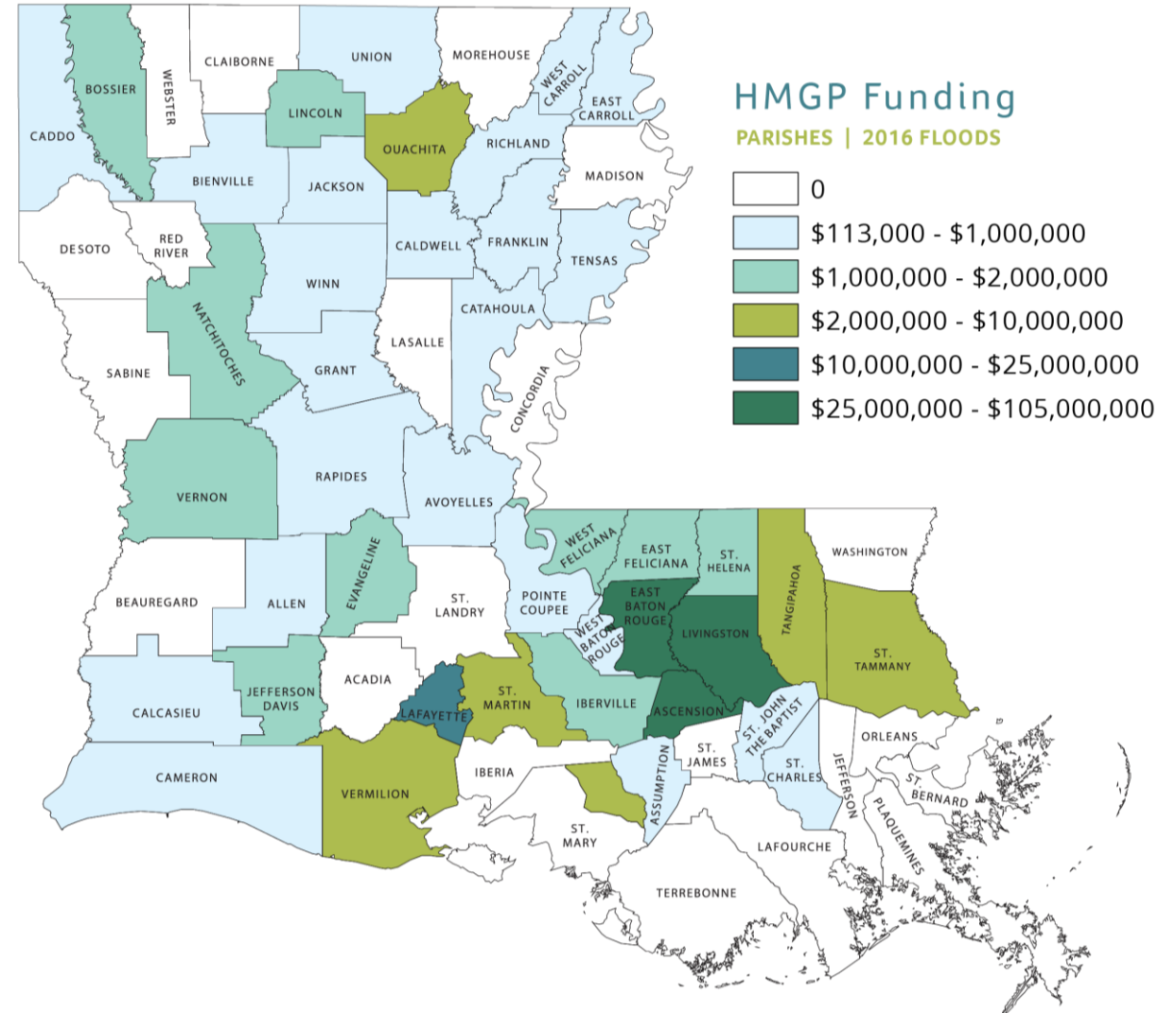


Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance Program

FEMA HMGP—2016 STORMS

- \$291 million in HMGP funding
- \$96.6 million in CDBG-MIT funding
- \$388 million total investment statewide
- About 100 projects approved
- Anticipate about 115 total

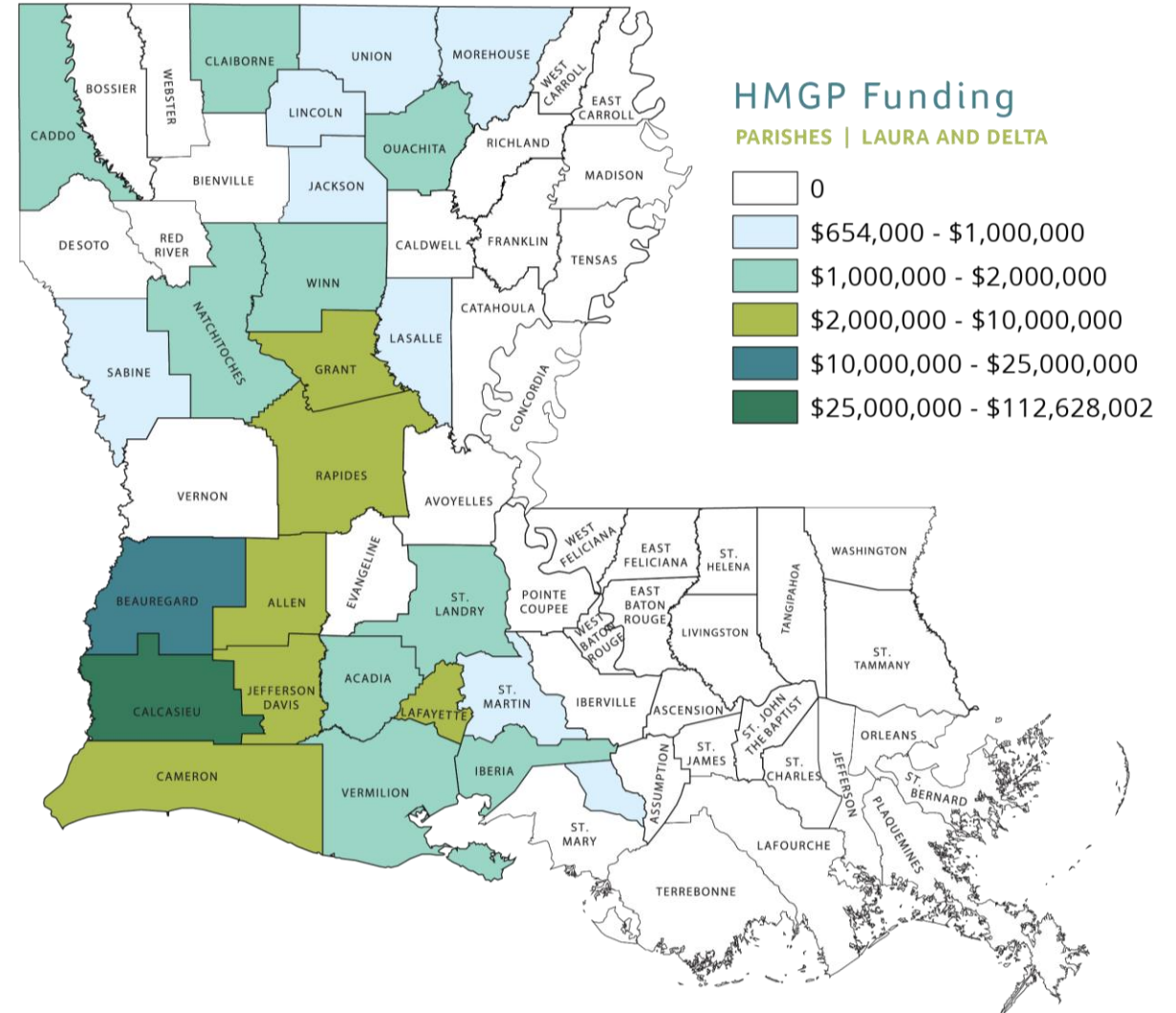
Parishes have been notified of match. Several projects are identified for funding. Phase 1 project scoping is underway. Other projects are being implemented (e.g., elevations and acquisitions).



Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance Program

FEMA HMGP—2020 STORMS

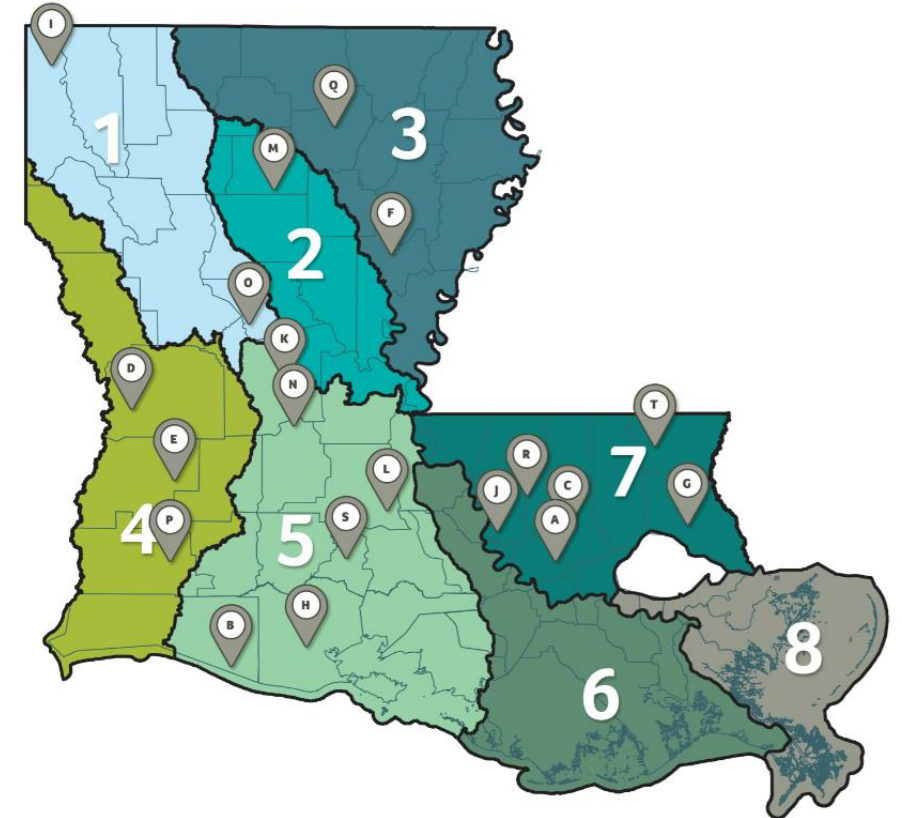
- \$176.3 million in HMGP funding statewide
- OCD and GOHSEP coordinating to fund local match for initial \$40 million
- \$13.3 million CDBG-MIT match
- \$53.3 million total investments statewide
- Unique opportunity to match federal dollars more quickly



State Projects and Programs

ABOUT \$213 MILLION AWARDED TO DATE

- 20 projects announced
- Executed CEAs for two projects
- Finalizing CEAs for 11 projects
- Budgets approved for 11 project applications



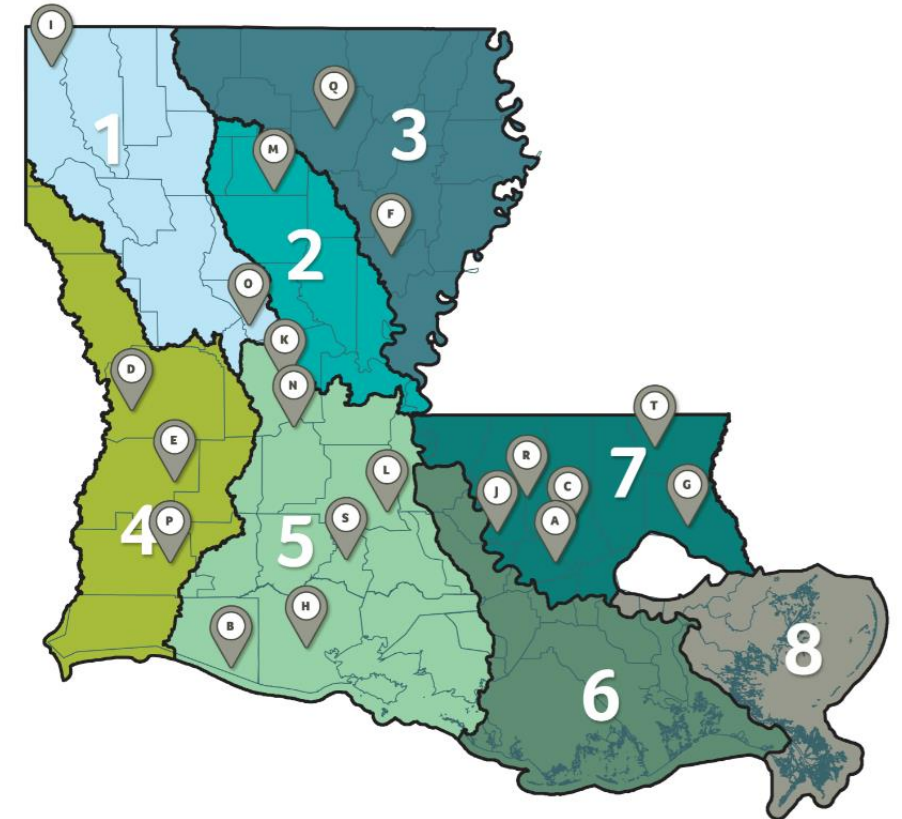
PHASE 1 PROJECTS



State Projects and Programs

ABOUT \$213 MILLION AWARDED TO DATE

- LSU Alexandria Drainage Improvements project, which held a groundbreaking June 18, begins construction this month.
- La. Hwy. 22 Bridge Construction and Drainage Improvements and Mermentau Basin Inundation Relief projects have procured project designers.
- University Lakes Flood Risk Reduction project has begun the environmental review process.
- Project summaries and program policies and procedures are available at watershed.la.gov.



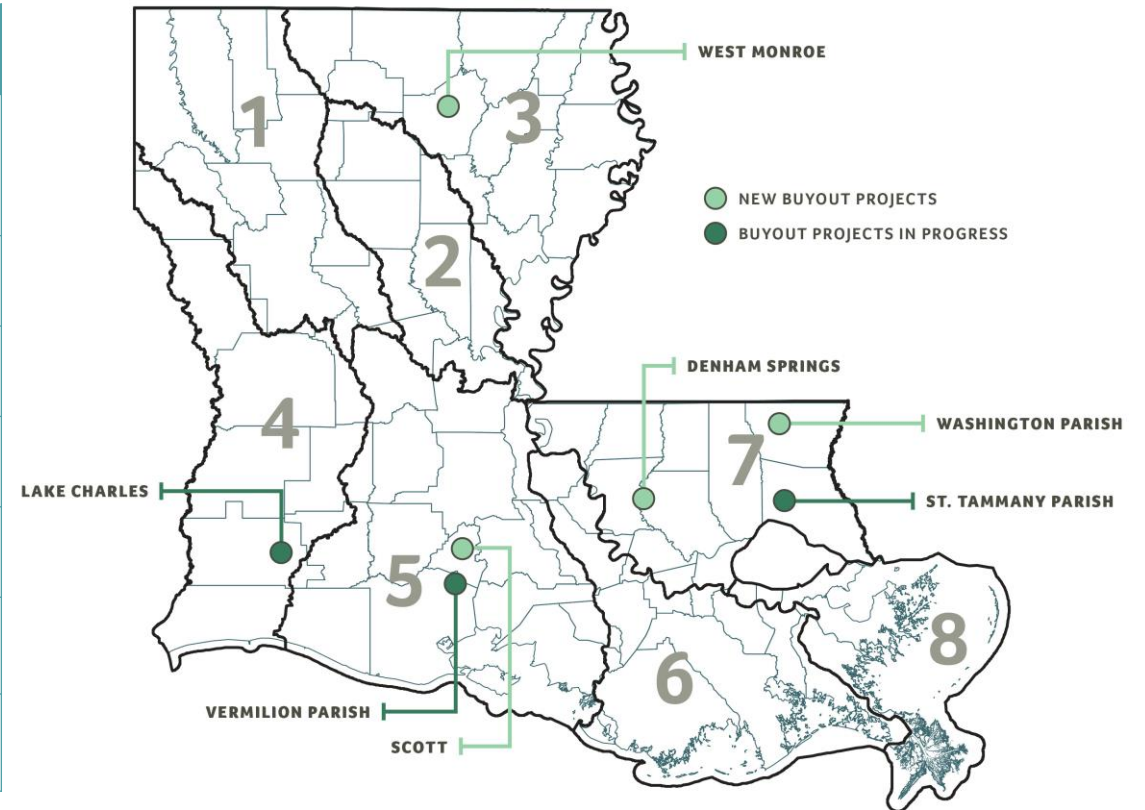
PHASE 1 PROJECTS



Statewide Buyout Program

ABOUT \$70 MILLION FOR VOLUNTARY BUYOUTS AND RELOCATION

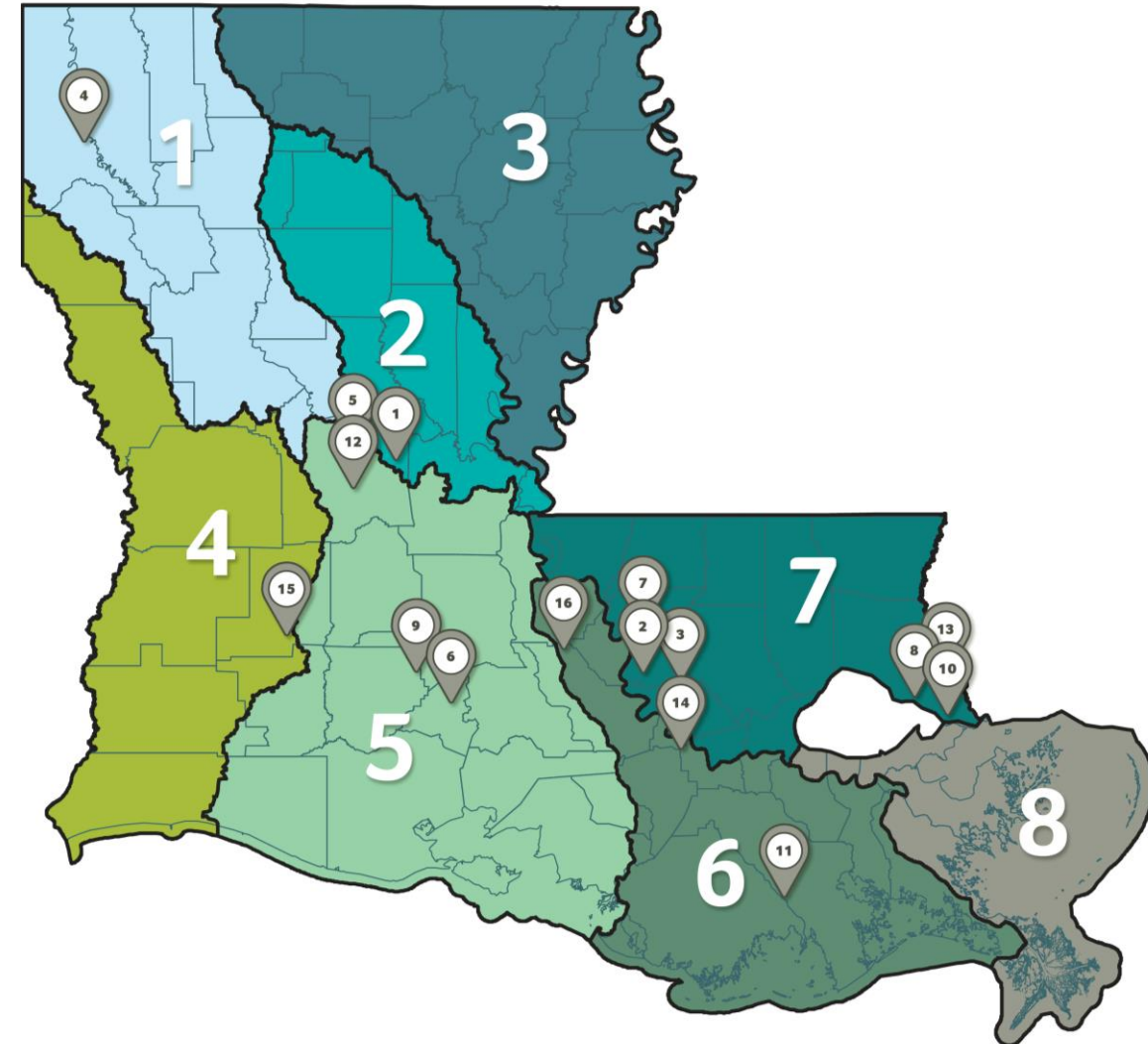
| LOCATION | ADMIN | STATUS |
|--------------------|--------|--|
| Lake Charles | State | Survey launched and initial outreach completed |
| St. Tammany Parish | Parish | Finalizing project areas |
| Vermilion Parish | State | Identifying project areas |
| Scott | State | Finalizing project areas |
| West Monroe | State | Finalizing project areas |
| Washington Parish | State | Initial discussions underway |
| Denham Springs | State | Initial discussions underway |



Round 1 projects awarded

\$61.6 MILLION FOR 16 PROJECTS

- Highest-scoring projects awarded in May 2021, including:
 - Eight drainage infrastructure
 - Four flood storage
 - Two physical nonstructural mitigation
 - Two levees
- OCD issued 15 conditional award letters and is scheduling/hosting kick-off meetings with applicants to discuss project implementation.



Round 1 regional project recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED FROM REGIONS 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5

| REGION | PROJECTS RECOMMENDED |
|--------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 3 | 3 |
| 4 | 1 |
| 5 | 3 |





Upcoming events



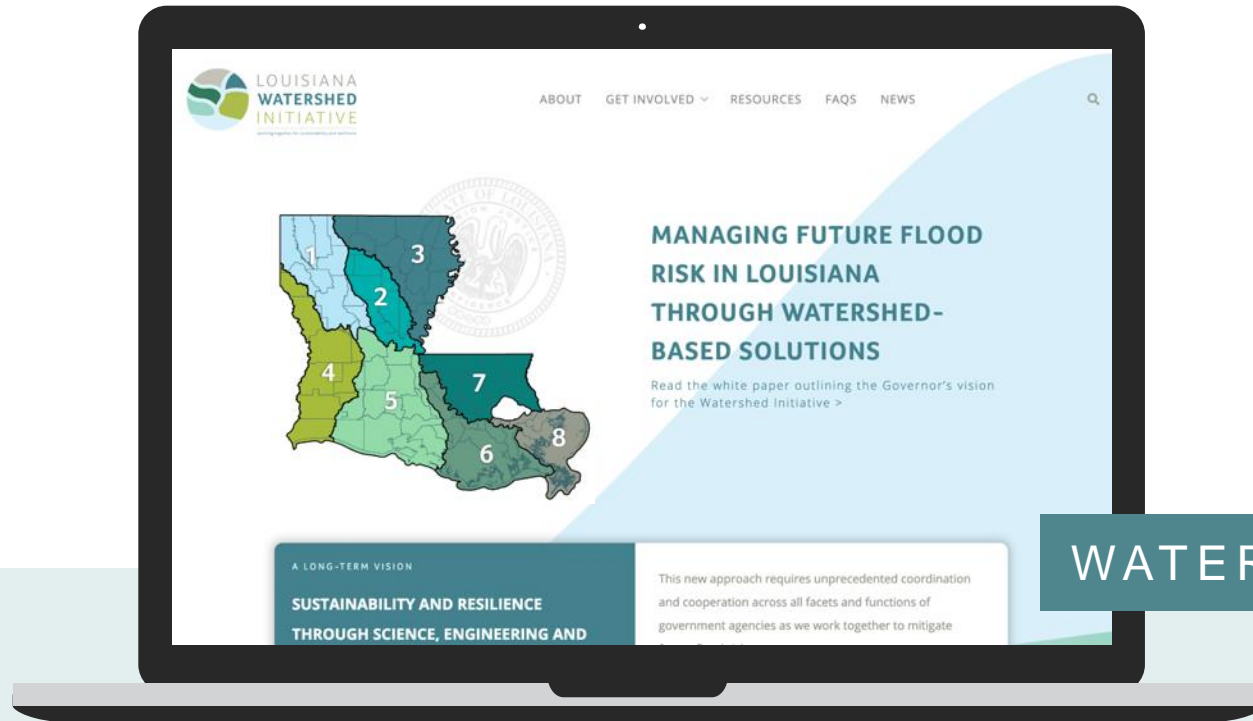
Council on Watershed Management meeting

- Early August 2021
- Stay informed: watershed.la.gov/get-involved
- Updates on planning, policy and program development
- Action items include:
 - Model Use, Storage and Maintenance plan and public comment period
 - Phase II of the Regional Capacity Building Program
 - Updated policies for Round 1 and Round 2



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THANK YOU



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